

We Worship the Living God

Please turn off all electronic devices.

GATHERING MUSIC

Jesse Roberts

WORDS OF GREETING

Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Call to Service, Kevin Lynch

A PRAYERFUL CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Allison Benfield

ONE: As disciples of Jesus, we gather to worship the Living God who is faithful. We personify God's compassion because God's manna of mercy nourishes us; God's living water of salvation quenches our thirst; God's inclusive hospitality redeems us to be a community in Christ; God's grace enfolds us; and God's Spirit is our constant companion.

ALL: **We express our praise to the Living God and open our lives for God to shape us in Christlikeness. Amen. May it be so.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE

O Praise the Gracious Power
Thomas Troeger
MARION

O praise the gracious power that tumbles walls of fear,
and gathers in one house of faith, all strangers far and near.
We praise You, O Christ! Your cross has made us one!

O praise persistent truth that opens fist'd minds,
and eases from their anxious clutch, the prejudice that blinds:
We praise You, O Christ! Your cross has made us one!

O praise inclusive love, encircling every race,
oblivious to gender, wealth, to social rank or place:
We praise You, O Christ! Your cross has made us one!

O praise the word of faith that claims us as God's own,
a living temple built on Christ, our rock and cornerstone:
We praise You, O Christ! Your cross has made us one!

READING OF THE GOSPEL

Mark 4:10-12

Scott Kerley



When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that 'they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.'"

ONE: Through these written words of scripture, we listen for the Living Word of God.

ALL: **Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.**

HYMN

Chalice Hymnal No. 354

Seek Ye First
SEEK YE FIRST

READING OF THE SCRIPTURES

Acts 1:6-8

Lily Wilkerson

So, when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

ONE: Through these written words of scripture, we listen for the Living Word of God.

ALL: **Those who have ears to hear, let them hear.**

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Congregation joins on refrain

You are salt for the earth, O people: salt for the Kingdom of God!
Share the flavor of life, O people: life in the Kingdom of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the King-dom of mer - cy. Bring forth the

King-dom of peace; Bring forth the King-dom of jus - tice.

Bring forth the Cit - y of God!

You are the light on the hill, O people: light for the City of God!
Shine so holy and bright, O people: shine for the Kingdom of God!

Refrain

You are a seed of the word, O people: bring forth the Kingdom of God!
Seeds of mercy and seeds of justice grow in the Kingdom of God!

Refrain

MEDITATION

"The Church exists by mission, just as fire exists by burning." -Emil Brunner

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Rev. Lee Gray

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Concerns

Emily Batts, Judy Biber, RD Bond, Byron Bullard, Richie Castellanos, Teri Franklin, Don Furr, Polly Hull, Paul Lloyd, Johnnie Morcock, Carl Phillips, Gene Poole, Brad Sifford, Elma Thomas, Debora Thon, Joe Trull & Alison Zieglmeier (daughter of Ken and Donna Scott); Parker Jackson – military

Congratulations to Liz and Jordan Benton on the birth of their son, Greer Walker Benton, on Thursday, February 20! Greer is the new grandson to Debbie and Ken Benton and the great-grandson of Jean Hutson.

Sympathy to Joe Millsaps in the death of his sister, Ann Batten.

Sympathy to Cherry and Anne Sutton in the death of their sister, Sue Sutton.

*HYMN

Believers All, We Bear the Name
EDGE

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Alan Dietz, Deacon

WE GIVE OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS FOR THE WORK OF GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

I Have Felt the Hand of God

Chancel Choir

Craig Courtney

*DOXOLOGY

Chalice Hymnal No. 46

OLD HUNDRETH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God all creatures here below;
praise God above ye heavenly host:
Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

MESSAGE "Rebuilding the Neglected Engine of God's Mission" Dr. Foust

*HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
Chalice Hymnal No. 614 I'M GONNA LIVE

During this hymn, anyone desiring to make a commitment to become a member of St. John's or make a profession of faith to follow Jesus Christ as a disciple is invited to come to the front of the sanctuary and pray with the minister.

CELEBRATIONS OF THE COMMUNITY & ANNOUNCEMENTS OF CHURCH LIFE

COMMISSIONING THE SCATTERED CHURCH Dr. Foust

*POSTLUDE J. Noel Lance

*Invites the congregation to stand.

Copies of worship bulletins and message manuscripts are available on the St. John's website: stjohsbaptistchurch.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ash Wednesday Sacred Space for Renewal

On Ash Wednesday, Broach Hall will be open for self-led, reflective, prayer stations. This experience was designed with all ages in mind. From 9AM-12PM and 1PM-7PM on February 26, a St. John's minister will be present to administer ashes. From 12PM-1PM, we hope you will attend the Elizabeth Communities of Faith service here in our Sanctuary. At 3PM, Dennis and Kevin will offer and devotion and music and at 6PM, Allison will offer a family devotion.

Elizabeth Communities of Faith Lenten Services: People of the Water

Beginning February 26, the Elizabeth Communities of Faith (ECoF) will have noontime (12PM) Lenten services each Wednesday in Lent (February 26-April 1) here at St. John's. The theme this year is "People of the Water." Each week, except for February 26, there will be a soup and sandwich lunch following the service in Broach Hall. A donation of \$5/person is suggested for lunch. All monies from lunch will go to Galilee Refugee Center and Refugee Support Services.

The Gift of Forgiveness Book Launch & Presentation

On Sunday, March 15, we welcome Katherine Schwarzenegger Pratt to St. John's Baptist Church for a launch of her book, The Gift of Forgiveness, which will be released nationwide on March 10, 2020. Katherine will be a part of our regular worship service in a dialogue with Dennis and will stay afterwards for book signings.

Al Staggs as Dietrich Bonhoeffer

On Saturday, March 28, Al Staggs will present his one-person drama called "A View from the Underside" in the Sanctuary at 4PM, sponsored by the McLeod-Brown fund. Tickets are \$10/person and are on sale now online here: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/an-afternoon-with-al-staggs-tickets-90047306919 If you would like tickets but do not want to purchase them online, please contact Mallory in the office for assistance. On Sunday, March 29, Staggs will join us in worship to offer his portrayal of Clarence Jordan.

St. John's Baptist Church
300 Hawthorne Lane, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204
704.333.5428 - www.stjohsbaptistchurch.org

The St. John's Pulpit

Sunday, March 1, 2020 | First Sunday in Lent
Proclaimer: Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD
Worship Theme: The God Who Expects Us to Pray
Message: WHEN You Pray - Not IF
Scriptures: Psalm 85:7-13 and Luke 11:1-4

This Week at St. John's

Table with 3 columns: Day, Time, and Activity. Lists various church events and services from Sunday, February 23 to Saturday, February 29.

Membership and Ministry

If you would like information on how you can become a member of St. John's, please call the church office (704.333.5428) or fill out one of the "For Our Guests" cards found on the back of the pew and place it in the offering plate. One of our ministers will be happy to reach out to you and answer any questions you may have. Visit our website to find out more information regarding the many ministry opportunities available in the life of St. John's.

Ministers

Every participant in God's Servant Church

Equipping Ministers

Minister for Spiritual Growth..... Rev. Allison Benfield
Minister for Worship and Music..... J. Kevin Gray
Minister for Youth and Young Adults..... Rev. Lee Gray
Senior Minister..... Rev. Dennis W. Foust, PhD

Church Staff

Administrative Assistant..... Mallory Brown
Administrative Assistant..... Derek Henson
Church Administrator..... Jacquelyn McAbee
Custodians..... Chris Mullis, Sonny Ross, Debora Thon
Graded Choir Director..... Anna Ball
Organist..... J. Noel Lance
Weekday School Director..... Lydia Olmsted

The Worship of God



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020
10:30 A.M. IN THE SANCTUARY

THE GOD WHO CALLS US TO BE INVOLVED IN GOD'S MISSION

ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA